

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/801,904

Examiner

Debra Wolfe

Applicant(s)

USHIDA, KOUHEI

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on January 16, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700



NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious "wherein the reverse squeezing step is preformed in a direction opposite to the direction of the squeezing step, wherein the reverse squeezing step comprises compressing the initial peripheral portion of the initial article in a direction of thickness of the article, to thereby form an inclined surface in the first intermediate peripheral portion so that the first intermediate peripheral portion has opposite surfaces of different area" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in independent claim 1, and neither anticipates nor renders obvious "half die cutting a sheet blank to form an initial article having an initial peripheral portion" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in independent claim 9.

Searching by the examiner yielded prior art as follows:

2. Ushida (US Patent # 6,907,764) discloses a method for manufacturing flanged articles comprising the steps of half die cutting a blank (10) to obtain an intermediate part and then performing a squeezing operation to thicken the peripheral portion of the intermediate part [See FIGS 3A-3B and 4A-4B].

Kanemitsu et al (US Patent # 5,904,060) discloses a method for thickening the peripheral wall of a sheet metal member comprising the steps of pressing rollers against the flange to cause the material to collapse on itself therefore thickening the peripheral wall to a thickness 4 or more times the thickness of the base plate [See FIGS 2A-C, 3A-C, 4A-C].



3. The above cited prior art fails to disclose to claimed directions of the reverse squeezing and squeezing steps, the formation of the inclined surface during the reverse squeezing process and half die cutting a sheet metal blank prior to the squeezing steps. Therefore, it is concluded that claims 1 and 9 of the present invention are allowable subject matter over the prior art. Claims 1 and 3-9 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Wolfe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 7am - 4:30pm with alternating Friday 7am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Debra M Wolfe", is positioned above the printed name.

Debra Wolfe
Examiner
Art Unit 3725

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Derris H. Banks", is positioned above the printed name.

DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700